



The SHELTON STATEment

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Davis Shared Wisdom at Shelton State's First Ever Fall Commencement

Due to continued record enrollments, Shelton State Celebrated its first ever Fall Commencement Ceremonies on Monday, December 16th.

"With our enrollment now over 7,000, it is no longer feasible to offer students just one opportunity a year to participate in commencement exercises," President Rick Rogers said.

Dean of Students Humphrey Lee added, "This ceremony is an opportunity for students who complete requirements in the summer and fall to participate in commencement before they get too involved in the world of work or their transfer institution."

Over 200 graduates were eligible to participate, and approximately 60 took part in the commencement exercises. The overall turn out however, was much larger than expected.

"We were very pleasantly surprised by the number of family and friends that turned out to celebrate with their graduates," said Wendy Jones, Director of Public Relations. The supporters quickly filled more than 500 seats. "The location, atmosphere and support and respect shown to our graduates all made for a very successful event," Jones added.

Congressman Artur Davis brought the commencement address. He spoke about the importance of having goals and aspirations and encouraged graduates to follow in the outstanding tradition of Shelton State students who have gone before them. he also praised Shelton State for the role that it plays in work force development, especially in the Black Belt.

Congressman Davis, represeing Alabama 's 7th Congressional District, serves on the Financial Services Committee, with seats on the Housing and Community Opportunities and Financial Institutions subcommittees. Davis also serves on the Budget Committee, which sets the annual blueprint for government spending practices. Born in 1967 in Montgomery , Alabama , Davis graduated Magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1990 and cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1993.

Shelton State's Spring Commencement is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2004.



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FAIR NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

SHELTON FOUNDATION PREPARES FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Since 1984, the Shelton State Community College Foundation has worked to support West Alabama's community college through scholarships, special initiatives and general support of the college.

With endowed scholarship funds exceeding \$800,000 and total assets exceeding \$1 million, the Shelton State Foundation offers 23 endowed scholarships each year including the President's Scholarship Fund, the C.A. Fred Sr. Endowed Scholarship, the George and Billie Layton Endowed Scholarship, the Dr. and Mrs. John N. Todd III Scholarship as well as several nursing and technical scholarships.

The Shelton State Foundation is under the leadership of a board of community volunteers with Drew Linn as President. "This is a great group of people to work with because they all are dedicated to making Shelton State the premiere community college in the state," said Linn.

Greg Kosloff is First Vice President, Gina Miers is Second Vice President and Paul Ray serves as Secretary/Treasurer. Board members are Elizabeth Abrasley,

Melissia Davis, Thomas Hester, Robert Lake, Jacqueline Standridge, Maxie Thomas, Phyllis Todd, Howell Poole, Claude Burns, Tony Junkin, Jennifer Kidwell, Joe Mallisham, Verta Barr Meherg, Houston Pearce, Joyce Rice, Lewis Drummond, Peggy Harrison, Hugh Kynard, Paul Ray, Leah Ann Sexton and Fitzgerald Washington. Faculty and staff representatives are Sara Brenizer, Jason Moore, June Hollingsworth and Georita Griffin with Pat Headrick as alumni representative. Ex-officio members of the board include China Davidson, Mary Hartley, Bill Langston, Humphrey Lee, Victor Poole, Sandra Ray, Rick Rogers, William Ryan, Charles Steele, Karen Van Luvender and Camille Cochrane with "Fellows" Lorine Lowe, Leo Sumner and W. L. "Fuzzy" York.

For several years, the Shelton Foundation's chief fundraising event has been the annual Barbeque Bash held in the fall. With food, bingo and auctions, the Barbeque Bash has grown to become one of the signature events of Shelton State Community College. "This year we expect to have six cars in our auction," said Tommy Hester who heads [Con't on Page 2](#)

RECENT GRADUATE TAKES TOP HONORS IN HORSE SHOW

Twenty-two year old Angela Johnson has been riding horses since she was four and competing since she was six. Now she's been crowned a world champion by the American Paint Horse Association and graduated in December from Shelton State Community College with a degree in Information Processing.

Throughout her high school and college years she maintained a GPA above a 3.0 and at Shelton State was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and has made the Dean's List, all while competing in rodeos.

"I started going to a few local rodeo's no more than two hours away from home. I started winning money in barrel racing and wanted to go to more, so I expanded my travel area and started going to rodeos in Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Florida," said Johnson.

In 2003 Angela joined the Professional Cowboy's Association, Southern Roughstock Association, Triple E Rodeo Association, National Barrel Horse Association, and the American Paint Horse Association. "Overall I travel about 50,000 miles a year going to rodeo's and barrel racings."

Traveling in a Ford F350 Powerstroke Diesel 4-Door Dually with a 4-horse trailer built with full living quarters, it's convenient for the young competitor to travel several hours away from her home in Eutaw and stay overnight. "This is how I



make my living so I don't mind traveling. We may leave home on Friday morning going to a rodeo, compete that night, leave and go to a barrel racing Saturday morning, leave there and compete in a rodeo Saturday night."

Angela's mom, Frances Johnson, travels with her at times, but usually her fiancé, Johnny Luker, a bull rider, is her highway companion. "It's great that I have

someone to travel with. My mother makes up the backbone of my rodeo life but she prefers to stay closer to home."

At the APHA competition, she said, "I entered the arena wanting to make the best run possible and I did. I took the lead with my run, but I had to wait for the rest of the class to go. My mother and Johnny were in the stands and when I entered the arena after the class was over they had big smiles on their faces so I knew I had won."

Through all of her traveling Angela still finds time to compete in local horse shows and is a member of the Black Warrior Riding Club and the West Alabama Horseman's Association.

"Horses have been great for me. They are companions as well as competition partners. I have had a lot of success, but success does not come without its share of hardships such as the death of my father, Alton Johnson, in 1994. I thought that after his death I wouldn't be able to win another World Title, but I strived to win again. The best advice I can give is never give up and learn from your mistakes."

Foundation *can't*

the Fundraising Committee. "Automobiles are always among our most popular items."

For the past two years, the Shelton State Foundation has discussed the need for a facility to use for fundraising activities. The board passed a resolution earlier this year to construct such a facility and to design it in such a manner that it could also be used as a residence for the college president. Currently under construction in the "Woodbank" development just south of the college campus, the facility will enable the Foundation and the college to host special events in a comfortable, off-campus setting.

As the Shelton State Foundation approaches its 20th anniversary, goals are being set for the future. "We intend to increase our scholarship endowment to \$1 million by 2005," said Lewis Drummond Foundation Director. "Our success in providing for the needs of the college and its students is a testament to the commitment of the benefactors and friends of the college." "Their level of support is part of what will place Shelton State in the top 25 two-year schools in the country."

For additional information on the Shelton State Foundation, contact Lewis Drummond at 205-391-2347 or Maxine Perry, Foundation Administrator at 205-391-2298.

Fair *can't*

tal in developing several key partnerships. A training partnership was developed with Phifer Wire which allows Phifer engineers and technicians to assist Shelton State students using their cutting edge equipment. Educational partnerships with the University of Alabama Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Tuscaloosa County Schools allow non-Shelton State students access Shelton State's labs and instructors thus eliminating the need for duplication of facilities and instructors.

Fair continued to benefit from his classroom experience and successful relationships in 2001 when he was named the Director of the Training for Business and Industry Center (TBI). There he was responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing training programs that were responsive to the needs of the community through TBI, Continuing Education and the Lawrence Mund Lifelong Learning Center. "In TBI, I had the opportunity to be the Colleges' liaison to business and industry. I spent a lot of time with business leaders to get a better understanding of what their needs were and what role Shelton State could play in servicing those needs," said Fair.

As a result of that knowledge, Fair was able to develop and implement two new college components to better address the needs of business and industry. They were the Shelton State Job Placement Center in 2002 which assists in linking Shelton State Students with potential employers, and the Center for Workforce Development of West Alabama in 2003, a partnership with the Chamber of

Commerce of West Alabama, which provides single access point for job seekers and employers and functions as a clearing-house for workforce development information.

Now as Associate Dean, Fair is responsible for maintaining a flow through system that addresses the area's workforce development needs including recruitment, training and assessment.

"There is a definite need to have coordinated activities and missions and that is where the community college comes in. We can respond and react to the rapidly changing needs of business and industry, and we accomplish that through our career technical training, Training for Business and Industry Center, Job Placement Center, Center for Workforce Development of West Alabama, and most importantly through our continued relationships with those out in the world of work," said Fair.

"When I entered workforce in the late 70's and early 80's, this area was economically depressed, now West Alabama is a very vibrant and prosperous community. We have come along way since the 80's and I know how important the College has been and will continue to be in the future when it comes to helping the community meet its employment needs," Fair added.

"Steve is a lifelong resident of Tuscaloosa, and we are very proud of his new appointment. He is a person of great character, has a tremendous work ethic, and will continue to represent the college well," said Shelton State President Rick Rogers.



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DIANE LAYTON NAMED ACTING DEAN OF STUDENTS

Diane Layton, Director of Admissions and Registrar at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has been



named Acting Dean of Students at the school. Layton began her career at Shelton State in 1978 as a counselor and became Director of Admissions and Registrar in 1995. In 1996,

she was named Associate Dean of Students. She received her B.S. degree from the University of Alabama and her Masters degree in Counseling from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

As Acting Dean of Students, Layton will oversee all aspects of student life on the college's campuses including student activities, recruitment and counseling, admissions and records and athletics.

"I am thrilled and honored by these new duties," said Layton. "I know there will be a lot of challenges but there is also a wonderful staff in place who will continue to provide outstanding service to our students."

Layton assumed her new duties following the departure of Humphrey Lee, who has been tapped as Interim President of Northwest Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

"I'm delighted that Diane has agreed to accept this responsibility at Shelton State," said Rick Rogers, President. "Her 25 year commitment to this institution and its goals make her the perfect choice for this position," he added.

FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED BY ALABAMA COLLEGE SYSTEM

Six of Shelton State Community College's faculty and staff and one student were honored by the Alabama College System at the 17th Anniversary Chancellor's Awards and Art Exhibition held at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel on November 23.

The annual Chancellor's Awards and Art Exhibition provide an opportunity to recognize the outstanding talent and accomplishment of some of the System's top employees. Chancellor Roy W. Johnson said, "While we remain focused on giving students the tools for success, it is important to look at each other and take note of the talents, dedication and hard work that fuel our System. The employees in the Alabama College System are among the best and brightest, and Alabama is a better place because of what our employees contribute each day."

The awards are divided into four categories: administration, academic faculty, technical faculty and staff. Shelton State Community College had employees included in each class.

Dean of Instruction Camille Cochrane was recognized in the Administration division.

Named to the 2003 Class of Academic Faculty was Dr. Fran Turner who serves as Coordinator of the Adult Education Consortium and is a Language and Communications Instructor at Shelton State.

William Quimby, Electrical Technology Instructor at Shelton State, was honored in the Technical Faculty division.

Having served in various capacities at Shelton State in her 23 year tenure, Deborah Bonner was honored in the Staff Division for her work as Special Events Coordinator for the school.

In the Chancellor's Art Exhibition, Shelton State commercial art instructor Larry McAfee received first place for his painting "Thunder Row" and third place for his drawing "Rollin' a Smoke." Paul K. Looney, Director of Institutional Advancement, was awarded second place for his painting "Florenz" and Laura Colbert received the second place award for her painting "Self Portrait" in the Student Division.

COCHRANE TO BE HONORED BY THE CHAIR ACADEMY

Camille P. Cochrane, Dean of Instruction at Shelton State Community College, will be by The Chair Academy as a recipient of the 2004 International Exemplary Leadership Award at the Academy's 13th Annual International Conference on March 6, 2004.

Cochrane began her career at Shelton State as a mathematics instructor and in 2002 was appointed Dean of Instruction. Under her leadership the curriculum has been expanded and modernized and new, innovative programs of study added. She has been instrumental in the development of EDGE (Enrichment, Development and Growth through Education), the creation of the new Cyber Café on the Martin Campus and Shelton State's participation in the Adult Education Consortium which coordinates the efforts of the seven West Alabama programs offering preparation for the General Education Diploma (GED).

The National Community College Chair Academy Institute for Academic Leadership Development (the Chair Academy) was created to advance organizational leadership globally and is committed to excellence and continuous improvement in providing training to organizational leaders.



HILL NAMED TO "PRIDE" BOARD

Martha Ann Hill of the Shelton State Community College business faculty has been named to the board of directors of the Tuscaloosa-based PRIDE (Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education) program.

The purpose of PRIDE is to prevent drug abuse through public awareness and education with the major emphasis being the parents of the Tuscaloosa community and their children.

Hill has been a business instructor at Shelton State Community College for the past 23 years and served as the college Director of Recruiting for three years. She holds B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Alabama with post-graduate concentrations in Statistics and Human Development.

QUALITY MONTH TEAM RECEIVES SILVER HONORS

Shelton State Community College has been awarded the Silver Award from the 2003 Alabama Quality Award Conference. Sponsored by the Alabama Productivity Center, the Alabama Quality Awards recognize organizations "that undertook the challenge of changing focus and achieving higher levels of performance excellence." The award competition was open to representatives of small business, service and government agencies, manufacturing, education and health care.

Shelton State was awarded the Silver Award for its "Quality Month Team" which was chartered to plan, coordinate, conduct and evaluate the College's annual observance of National Quality Month in October 2002 and to integrate the observance into the College's 50th Anniversary Jubilee celebration. Members of the team included Kim Inman-Smith (Leader), Cindy Wyatt, Marian Pierce, Beth Delbridge, Debbie Hammons, Molly Booth, Jackie Williams, Carrie Rogers, Wendy Jones, Deborah Bonner, Janet Hendrix, JoeAnn Cousette, Fran Viscelli, Maggie Haughton, Johnny Parker and Lucy Kubiszyn.

FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS TO BE HONORED WITH NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Two Shelton State Community College faculty members and two staff members will be honored with the 2004 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards.

Channing Howington, Mathematics Instructor, and Bill Stringfellow, Drafting and Design Technology Instructor, along with Deborah Bonner, Special Events Coordinator and John Flannigan, Director of Operations, were nominated by their peers for excellence in teaching and service and will be recognized by NISOD at 26th Annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Austin, Texas in May.

Fair Named Associate Dean for Technical Services

Following a twenty-five year relationship with Shelton State Community College which has involved taking classes, teaching classes, overseeing the Training

tutions. Fair will also be faced with the challenge of educating local students, their parents, counselors and teachers about the viable options available to students who pursue a career technical education.

Fair is a lifelong resident of West Alabama and began his career at Shelton State as a Machine Tool Technology (MTT) and Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) student in 1978. He later received an Associate of Applied Science in MTT and CNC from Shelton State, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Education from Athens State and a Master of Arts in Management from the University of Alabama.

Fair's education and experience make him the ideal candidate. He spent ten years in the field at Atrax Research and Development Corporation, working his way up from machinist to department manager. "Having worked ten years in industry, I understand the need for and importance of productivity and how it relates to skills. It all impacts the bottom line. Good, productive employees help maintain the health of the organization and keep the company competitive in the

international marketplace," said Fair. "That's why it is so imperative that we attract solid, quality students and help them to gain the skills they need to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that are available to them," Fair added.

In 1988, Fair was asked to join the Shelton State Career technical faculty in MTT and CNC. Fair had planned on pursuing a degree in education, but enjoyed teaching so much that he instead earned a degree in vocational education. During his time as an instructor in Machine Tool Technology and Computerized Numerical Control, Fair was able to maintain and strengthen the job placement rate to 99% for his students through ongoing relationships with local industry.

Those relationships also paid off in the form of donated equipment. Fair was able to help negotiate the donation of over \$150,000 worth of equipment from corporations such as L.S. Starrett to his department. "Most businesses are more than glad to help if they know their contribution is being used properly. This is the best way to simulate the work environment for our students. That and the experience of our instructors bring to the classroom definitely makes a difference in the training of our students," said Fair.

Fair was also instrumen- [Con't on Page 2](#)



Fair (seated) with Dr. Cordell Wynn, Assistant to the President; Dean Camille Cochrane; Mike Fields, Director of the Job Placement Center and President Rick Rogers.

for Business and Industry Center and acting as interim Associate Dean, Steve Fair has been named Associate Dean for Technical Services.

As Associate Dean, Fair will be responsible for providing leadership to the Career Technical Division of the College, assuring the academic integrity and viability of all career technical programs, maintaining existing and developing new relationships with West Alabama business and industry, as well as other educational insti-

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